



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 December 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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## Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports federal air marshals are expanding their work beyond airplanes, launching counterterror surveillance at train stations and other mass transit facilities in a three-day test program. (See item [5](#))
- The Associated Press reports that due to an operational error by a civilian air traffic controller, two Navy Reserve jets came dangerously close to a Florida-bound airliner last month. (See item [7](#))
- The Federal Computer Weekly reports a Senate committee has approved a bill to create a national alert system that would take advantage of traditional broadcast media, the Internet, wireless phones, handheld computers, and other forums to warn people about impending disasters. (See item [24](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 14, Canadian Press* — **Nuclear power if necessary, Ontario Premier says.** New nuclear power plants will be built in Ontario if that is what the province needs to ensure it has enough electricity, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Wednesday, December 14. “Nuclear remains

on the table for us,” McGuinty told reporters days after receiving a report recommending that Ontario expand its nuclear power base. The report by the Ontario Power Authority suggests the province construct or replace up to 12,400 megawatts of nuclear power — requiring 12 or more new nuclear reactor units. McGuinty did not confirm that the province intends to build more nuclear reactors but strongly indicated that his readiness to move in that direction. “What they're saying is: If you want to ensure that you have a reliable supply of electricity in 2015, then you'd better make some difficult decisions today,” he said.

Source: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20051214.wontnuke1214/BNStory/National/>

2. *December 14, Associated Press* — **Oil to remain at \$50-a-barrel.** Oil prices will persist near or above \$50 a barrel for years and force a shift to more fuel-efficient cars and alternative fuels, the government said this week, discarding earlier predictions that costs would drop to around \$30 a barrel. The Department of Energy forecast was more positive on natural gas prices. It said they would retreat from the recent spikes — to more than \$14 per thousand cubic feet — and settle at under \$5 in the long term as demand weakens, especially for electricity production. The analysis reflected a significant change from the department's projections a year ago when it predicted oil prices in constant dollars — not counting normal inflation — would retreat in the long term and settle at about \$31 a barrel by 2025. The report from the Energy Information Administration, the Energy Department's statistical agency, issued Monday, December 12, said that oil prices will remain in the mid-\$40 range or higher in coming years and average \$54 a barrel by 2025, increasing to an average of \$57 a barrel by 2030 when adjusted for inflation. Crude oil prices have been hovering around \$60 a barrel, briefly soaring as high as \$70 earlier this year.

Source: [http://www.register-mail.com/stories/121405/BIZ\\_B8DA0HCJ.GID.shtml](http://www.register-mail.com/stories/121405/BIZ_B8DA0HCJ.GID.shtml)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

3. *December 14, New York Times* — **Securities and Exchange Commission looks to ease delisting rules for foreign companies.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) voted Wednesday, December 14, to propose rules to make it easier for foreign companies to stop listing their securities for trading in the U.S. and thereby avoid the expense of complying with American securities laws. The rule would allow a company to leave if less than five percent of the trading volume of its stock takes place in American markets, but only if less than 10 percent

of the shares are owned by American residents. If less than five percent of its stock is owned by American residents, a company can leave the American market no matter how large the trading volume. Current SEC rules make it very difficult for a company that chooses to register its securities in the U.S. to get out of the market. It can suspend its registration if it has fewer than 300 American owners, but it faces a risk that it might have to resume complying with American securities rules if the number goes back over that level.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/14/business/14cnd-sec.html>

4. *December 13, Associated Press* — **Regulators warn of text message stock scam.** Securities regulators are warning investors about a new twist on the "pump and dump" stock-fraud scam that uses text messaging on cell phones to tout stocks. The National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD), the brokerage industry's self-policing organization, issued an "investor alert" Tuesday, December 13, advising people to ignore such messages with "hot" stock tips on their cell phones. In so-called "pump and dump" schemes, the perpetrators tout small, thinly traded stocks to investors to inflate the prices and then sell their own shares at a profit. Ordinary investors can suffer losses when the stock prices tank during the share dumping. "The emergence of text messaging offers fraudsters another cheap and easy way to reach large numbers of potential investors," John Gannon, the NASD's vice president for investor education, said.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051213/ap\\_on\\_hi\\_te/cell\\_phone\\_stock\\_scams;\\_ylt=Ai6erDPuS0GzuqhjKV27maYjtBAF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051213/ap_on_hi_te/cell_phone_stock_scams;_ylt=Ai6erDPuS0GzuqhjKV27maYjtBAF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

5. *December 14, Associated Press* — **Undercover marshals to be on trains, ferries, buses.** Federal air marshals are expanding their work beyond airplanes, launching counterterror surveillance at train stations and other mass transit facilities in a three-day test program. As of Wednesday, December 14, the Transportation Security Administration said, teams of undercover air marshals and uniformed law enforcement officers were descending on bus stations, ferries and transit systems across the country to protect them from potential terrorists. "We just want to develop the capability to enhance security outside of aviation," said air marshal spokesperson David Adams. Air marshals stepped outside of their usual role of flying undercover on airliners after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans. They were sent to keep order at Louis Armstrong International Airport, where thousands of evacuees converged after the levees were breached. The so-called "Visible Intermodal Protection and Response" teams — or VIPER teams — will patrol Amtrak's Northeast Corridor and Los Angeles rail lines; ferries in Washington state; bus stations in Houston; and mass transit systems in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and Baltimore. The teams will consist of two air marshals, one TSA bomb-sniffing-canine team, one or two transportation security inspectors and a local law enforcement officer.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-14-airmarshals\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-14-airmarshals_x.htm)

6. *December 14, Associated Press* — **Midway layout limits runway options.** Houses and businesses surrounding Midway International Airport severely limit the options for creating

buffer zones or other safety measures to prevent accidents like last week's fatal runway skid, a city aviation official said. There is no known remedy for the airport's lack of a 1,000-foot buffer zone at the end of runways, Erin O'Donnell, the city's deputy aviation commissioner and Midway manager, said Tuesday, December 13. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recommends the buffer zones for all commercial airports. Studies by the city and the FAA in recent years determined that there is not enough room at the end of Midway's airstrips to install beds of crushable concrete that can slow an aircraft if it slides off the end of a runway, O'Donnell said. Some safety experts have said the runway enhancement — known as Engineered Material Arresting Systems — might have prevented the accident. At Midway, only 82 feet separate the end of the runway and the parameter fence. The one-square-mile airport was built in 1923 during the propeller era and has shorter runways than most major airports, with no room to expand. Midway is among nearly 300 U.S. commercial airports without the recommended runway buffers, according to the FAA.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-midway-runways.0.2201227.story?coll=sns-ap-nation-headlines>

7. *December 14, Associated Press* — **Florida-bound plane had near miss.** Two Navy Reserve jets came dangerously close to a Florida-bound airliner last month because of an operational error by a civilian air traffic controller, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded. The near collision was between a Southwest Boeing 737 that had taken off from Norfolk International Airport en route to Orlando, FL, and two Texas-based F/A-18C Hornets headed toward Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach. The aircraft came within 100 feet in elevation and a half-mile in horizontal distance of one another, said Jim Peters, a spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Rules require aircraft to be no closer than 1,000 feet in elevation and three miles distance from one another. In response to the incident, an FAA controller was suspended and given additional training, and two supervisors were disciplined for failing to properly report the close call. No one was injured in the encounter on November 15, and pilots of all three aircraft saw one another in time to avoid collision, the Navy said.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051214/BREAKINGNEWS/51214010>

8. *December 14, Auto Channel* — **AAA: Record Christmas-New Year's travel expected.** The higher cost of travel won't keep Americans from taking trips during the Christmas-New Year's holidays. According to AAA's most recent Leisure Travel Index poll, some 63.5 million Americans say they will journey 50 miles or more from home for either Christmas and/or New Year's. This is a modest 1.7 percent increase from the 62.42 million who traveled this time last year. AAA's poll also indicated that an estimated 51.54 million people, or 81 percent of all holiday travelers, will go by motor vehicle. "This year's calendar is great for holiday travel," says Kris Lathan, AAA Chicago's director of public affairs. "Christmas and New Year's both fall on a Sunday, creating a pair of long weekends, and this year Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's all fall between December 25 and January 1. Approximately 8.75 million Americans, or 14 percent of holiday travelers, expect to fly. The remaining 3.21 million holiday travelers say they'll use train, bus, or another mode of transportation.

Source: <http://www.theautochannel.com/news/2005/12/14/175420.html>

9. *December 14, Washington Post* — **Flyi drops four cities from its itinerary.** The parent of Dulles-based Independence Air, which filed for bankruptcy protection last month, plans to

drop service to four more cities. Flyi Inc. said today it will no longer serve Chicago, Buffalo, NY, Jacksonville, FL, and Manchester, NH, beginning January 5. "To continue to conserve on operating expenses, we are reducing the overall number of flights as well as service to these four markets," said Rick DeLisi, the spokesperson for the low-cost airline, which has been struggling financially since it was launched in June 2004. Flyi has said it will shut down if it cannot find a buyer or new investors.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/14/AR2005121401583.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Agriculture Sector**

10. *December 14, Navasota Examiner (TX)* — **Texas A&M, St. Joseph Hospital work on improving health of cattle herds.** The Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science has collaborated with Grimes, TX, St. Joseph Hospital in an experiment aimed at improving cattle health and welfare during and after transportation to feedlots. The investigators believe that by increasing ventilation in commercial cattle trailers, which previous research has shown to be almost non-existent, the air quality within the trailers should improve significantly. They suspect that cross ventilation (across compartments) near the deck of livestock trailers will decrease transmission of disease-causing bacteria, and decrease illness after transport. The development of a simple, effective method of decreasing the transmission of E. coli O157:H7 and Salmonella would be of great benefit to American agriculture and public health. Samples will be evaluated to determine if increasing ventilation affects the immune system, dehydration, and other indirect measurements of stress levels.

Source: <http://www.navasotaexaminer.com/articles/2005/12/14/news/new s11.txt>

11. *December 14, Associated Press* — **Wildlife officials want to expand bison quarantine.** Wildlife officials are proposing a second brucellosis quarantine facility to test bison calves that leave Yellowstone National Park. The current facility is in its first year. It was created to study whether a quarantine facility could be helpful in finding bison free of brucellosis and used to establish brucellosis-free herds. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks says it needs more land to conduct the pilot project, and is considering a ranch a couple of miles north of the existing facility. The new facility would increase the project's scope. Previously, the project allowed for the capture of 100 bison calves each year. The second facility would allow the project to accommodate up to 200 yearling and bison calves a year. To be taken, the bison have to stray from the park and test negative for exposure to brucellosis. Once quarantined, the animals would be tested and watched for signs of latent brucellosis infection. Half the bison would be euthanized while held so tests could be done on their tissues.

Source: <http://www.helenair.com/articles/2005/12/14/montana/a0712140 5 01.txt>

12. *December 14, Minnesota Ag Connection* — **Rash of grain elevator break-ins.** Authorities in southeastern Minnesota are investigating a series of grain elevator break-ins. Mower County authorities say last week, someone broke into, or tried to break into, six elevators — in Brownsdale, Sargeant, Waltham, Dexter, Adams, and Lansing. Based on footprint evidence, investigators think they're looking for the same suspects in all the cases. Doors to the elevators were damaged. The thieves took small amounts of cash from three of the elevators.

Source: <http://www.minnesotaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1095 &yr=2005>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Food Sector**

13. *December 15, JoonAng Daily (South Korea)* — **Decision on U.S. beef postponed by panel.** A South Korean livestock quarantine committee has postponed its decision on resuming the imports of U.S. beef. Although some of the members opposed the resumption, on food safety grounds, the Ministry of Agriculture said the general consensus was that there was no scientific evidence to suggest that U.S. beef is unsafe. Park Hyun-chool, the head of the ministry's livestock bureau, said the body will probably postpone its final decision until Park Hong-soo, the minister of agriculture, returns to the country. Park is now in Hong Kong to attend the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting. The ban on U.S. beef has been in place for about two years, and was imposed after a case of mad cow disease was discovered in Washington state.

Source: [http://joongangdaily.joins.com/200512/14/2005121422342882399\\_00090509051.html](http://joongangdaily.joins.com/200512/14/2005121422342882399_00090509051.html)

14. *December 13, Food and Drug Administration* — **Precautionary recall of four products due to possible health risks.** Sara Lee Food & Beverage Tuesday, December 13, announced that it is voluntarily recalling select cheeseburger and chicken biscuit products sold under the Jimmy Dean, Rudy's Farm, and State Fair brands. The company immediately took this precaution after it was notified by its cheese supplier that one of the supplier's cheese products could potentially contain *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. As a precautionary measure, the company is recalling 40,572 pounds of product. The company is working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in undertaking this voluntary recall.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/saralee12\\_05.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/saralee12_05.html)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Public Health Sector**

15.



*December 14, Agence France–Presse* — **Dozens more cases of bird flu in Romania.** Several dozen new cases of a bird flu virus have been confirmed in Romania, the agriculture ministry said. The cases were in two villages in the districts of Buzau in eastern Romania and Calarasi in the southeast, ministry spokesperson Adrian Tibu said Wednesday, December 14. There have so far been H5 outbreaks at 16 locations in Romania. Romanian veterinary official Raluca Monea said that more than 97,700 poultry have been slaughtered in Romania since the first case was discovered on October 7.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051214/hl\\_afp/healthfluromania\\_051214134558: ylt=AkaygjUffUczihyHrQIK5ViJOrgF: ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051214/hl_afp/healthfluromania_051214134558: ylt=AkaygjUffUczihyHrQIK5ViJOrgF: ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI)

16. *December 14, United Press International* — **Small hospitals face tough IT road.** Small hospitals — or those with fewer than 100 beds, and thus fewer resources — say they are worried whether they'll be able to comply with new federal rules on electronic transmission of health data. Most of the approximately 3,500 U.S. hospitals that qualify as small facilities say they're just not ready to meet the new requirements. The new rules, issued recently by the Department of Health and Human Services, require electronic submission of data on emergency–department visits, hospital capacity, and lab results to state public health agencies and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Federal health officials say they need the data to be able to track an epidemic or bioattack, but many hospitals — particularly the smaller, regional facilities that are already strapped for cash — face tough challenges in complying. Many small hospitals — which comprise more than half of the roughly 6,000 U.S. hospitals — are non–profit private hospitals without an endowment and without any academic support. Rural hospitals — already struggling to keep their doors open — will likely be especially hard hit by the new regulations.

Source: <http://www.upi.com/HealthBusiness/view.php?StoryID=20051214-040740-4221r>

17. *December 14, Agence France–Presse* — **Europe will be prepared for flu pandemic by 2007.** Europe should be prepared to face a flu pandemic by 2007, the European Union agency tasked with boosting defenses against infectious diseases said amid growing fears of a deadly bird flu outbreak on the continent. "I think that in one year's time we'll be more or less ready," said Zsuzsanna Jakab, the director of the Stockholm–based Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Speaking at a news conference marking the one year anniversary of the creation of the ECDC, Jakab said the center over the past 12 months had "made a major step forward" in mapping national preparedness plans and determining who is responsible for what. Today, "we know where our weaknesses lie (and) it is very clear what the national governments are expected to do," she said. European Commission director of public health Fernand Sauer on Wednesday, December 14, agreed that Europe would soon be prepared to face a flu pandemic. "At the end of 2007, potentially we could cover between 20 and 25 percent of the European population ... If (a pandemic) happens next week, there will be a shortage (of vaccines) but if it happens in 2007, there will probably be enough," he added.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051214/hl\\_afp/healthflueuswede\\_n\\_051214171739](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051214/hl_afp/healthflueuswede_n_051214171739)

18. *December 14, Atlanta Journal Constitution (GA)* — **Software will help hospitals communicate during disaster.** Georgia's hospitals will soon be wired to coordinate their communications during hurricanes and other health emergencies. Backed by a government grant, the Georgia Hospital Association signed a \$3.4 million deal with a New Jersey–based

company to provide 150 acute-care hospitals with emergency preparedness software. The company said Tuesday, December 13, that the purchase would make Georgia the first state to have standardized emergency software for all acute-care hospitals. Rollout will begin in January. The Web-based technology will help hospitals communicate with each other, create an emergency management plan, and help them train for disasters. The Georgia Hospital Association said a handful of hospitals tested the software before the purchase. The state Division of Public Health allocated \$3.4 million for the hospital project from a \$13.6 million bioterrorism grant the agency received from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/business/content/business/1205/14bizhospitals.html>

19. *December 13, Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA acts to protect public from fraudulent avian flu therapies.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued warning letters recently to nine companies marketing bogus flu products behind claims that their products could be effective against preventing the avian flu or other forms of influenza. Eight of the products purported to be dietary supplements. FDA is not aware of any scientific evidence that demonstrates the safety or effectiveness of these products for treating or preventing avian flu and the agency is concerned that the use of these products could harm consumers or interfere with conventional treatments. "The use of unproven flu cures and treatments increases the risk of catching and spreading the flu rather than lessening it because people assume they are protected and safe and they aren't. I consider it a public health hazard when people are lured into using bogus treatments based on deceptive or fraudulent medical claims," said Andrew von Eschenbach, Acting FDA Commissioner. In the warning letters, FDA advises the firms that it considers their products to be drugs because they claim to treat or prevent disease. The warning letters further state that FDA considers these products to be "new drugs" that require FDA approval before marketing. The companies have 15 days to respond to FDA.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01274.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Emergency Services Sector**

20. *December 15, Associated Press* — **Pennsylvania university's gadget may help law-enforcement communication.** It used to be that when a student at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA, used one of the campus' emergency call boxes, a dispatcher had to figure out which security officer to send. Now, thanks to a new handheld device, campus security will be alerted whenever the box is used and officers instantly will know which of them is in the best position to respond. The DragonForce can cut response times for emergency responders and give law-enforcement officers in the field the same information that dispatchers back at headquarters have. The device, launched Tuesday, December 13, at Drexel University, where the design began, could also help the military, its creators said. Bill Regli, a Drexel University



computer science professor who developed the technology, said it's unique because of the capabilities it gives to law enforcement officers or soldiers who are on foot in the field. The gadget is a bit bigger than a Palm Pilot or Blackberry and uses global-positioning satellites and lets its users communicate through text messaging or a white board on which they can write. It also enables images and maps to be sent to users.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj---securitydevice1213dec13.0.6596312.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

21. *December 13, Associated Press* — **South Dakota governor identifies problems in state's storm response.** The November ice storm and blizzard revealed problems with communications systems that must be addressed, South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds said. The November 27–28 storm knocked out electricity to dozens of towns and nearly 57,000 customers. Rounds identified three problems in the response to the blizzard in central and eastern South Dakota: 1) The state must work with cell phone companies to arrange for better backup power systems at cell phone towers. Many cell phones were useless because of power outages at the towers; 2) Better backup systems also are needed for emergency radio systems whose transmitter towers were without electricity; 3) The state must work with rural electric cooperatives to make sure emergency responders have access to important information. Rounds said some co-ops were concerned about releasing their customers' phone numbers, and that delayed emergency workers who were calling to check on the well being of people without power. Rounds said the state began working on some of the problems last summer during a training exercise that was based on a hypothetical ice storm and 30-day blizzard. "The 30-day blizzard didn't occur, but the ice storm was of...a lot more magnitude than what we practiced for," he said.

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/13397567.htm>

22. *December 13, Newsday (NY)* — **Long Island may not be prepared for large-scale disaster.** The next time a major hurricane hits Long Island, NY, Nassau County officials plan to use the Nassau Coliseum as a shelter for barrier island residents. But it is not known whether the building can withstand a Category 3 hurricane. In Suffolk County, if residents were to be displaced by a catastrophic flood, some of the schools designated as shelters are themselves in low-lying areas. Those are a couple of problems highlighted by ongoing state inquiries into whether Long Island is prepared for a large-scale disaster. State Sen. Michael Balboni (R-NY), chairman of the Senate's homeland security committee, Monday, December 12, issued dismal grades to the two counties, saying they fall woefully behind New York City in emergency planning. The committee considered the governments' communications systems and evacuation and shelter plans, finding that neither county had planned for evacuating enough residents and did not have supplies stockpiled or generators prepared in the shelters. Overall, Nassau got an "F" and Suffolk a "D." New York City earned a "B+." The grades were based on input from local and state emergency management officials at a hearing the committee held September 28.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-lidisa1214.0.4537098.story?coll=ny-linews-headlines>

23. *December 13, Detroit News (MI)* — **New emergency system in Michigan county alerts residents directly.** A notification system that sends emergency messages to pagers, cell phones, computers, other text-based devices and home phones is expected to be launched in Wayne County, MI, within the next month to bolster the region's safety. It is called Codespear

and will be used by Wayne County Sheriff's Office dispatchers to speed vital information to residents, public safety departments, hospitals, hazardous materials teams and other first-responders. The technology enables two-way voice and data communications between multiple agencies and can flash messages to any law enforcement agency or household in Metro Detroit, said Sgt. Larry Crider. "This will allow the elements of law enforcement to act quickly so all the proper groups are brought together," Crider said Monday, December 12. Tests of the system should be complete in the next 10 to 14 days, he said. Wayne County's system is initially designed to alert only county residents and regional emergency personnel. But Crider says partnerships with Macomb and Oakland County officials could be on the way so other Metro Detroiters can take advantage of it.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051213/METRO01/512130335/1006>

24. *December 13, Federal Computer Weekly* — **Senate committee approves national alert bill.** A Senate committee has approved a bill to create a national alert system that would take advantage of traditional broadcast media, the Internet, wireless phones, handheld computers and other forums to warn people about impending disasters. The proposed Warning, Alert and Response Network Act would also authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to create and manage a national tsunami warning system based on an existing system along the Pacific coast. The Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has referred the bill to the full Senate. According to a Senate report on the bill, the national alert system would fill gaps left by the existing national network and the country's regional networks. The Senate bill "would ensure that regardless of where individuals are or what kind of communication technologies they are using, they would receive a life-saving alert," the report states. Federal, state and local emergency managers would be able to send alerts and additional instructions to targeted geographic regions. But the system would be limited to situations that are truly dangerous, the report states.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article91713-12-13-05-Web>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

25. *December 14, Reuters* — **European Union Parliament approves rules on anti-terrorism data.** The European Parliament on Wednesday, December 14, adopted new rules drawn up by the European Union (EU) to store phone and Internet data for up to two years to fight terrorism and other serious crime. The measure was approved in record time after being proposed by the European Commission in September, and is part of the 25-nation bloc's response to the terrorist attacks in Madrid in 2004 and in London this year. Britain, holder of the rotating EU presidency, hailed the adoption as a step forward in the fight against terrorism and organized crime. Europe's telecoms and Internet industries issued a joint statement, saying the new rules raised major concerns about technical feasibility and proportionality. "This directive will impose a significant burden on the European e-communications industry, impacting on its competitiveness," the statement said. The industry also said only 20 percent of e-mails would be covered since many service providers were based outside the bloc.

Source: <http://today.reuters.com/business/newsArticle.aspx?type=telecomm&storyID=nL14475452>

**26. *December 13, Security Focus* — Microsoft DirectX DirectShow AVI processing buffer overflow vulnerability.** A buffer overflow vulnerability exists in the Microsoft Windows DirectX component. This issue is related to processing of .AVI (Audio Visual Interleave) media files. The specific vulnerability exists in DirectShow and could be exposed through applications that employ DirectShow to process .AVI files. Successful exploitation will permit execution of arbitrary code in the context of the user who opens a malicious .AVI file. This issue could be exploited through any means that will allow the attacker to deliver a malicious .AVI file to a victim user. In Web-based attack scenarios, exploitation could occur automatically if the malicious Webpage can cause the .AVI file to be loaded automatically by Windows Media Player. Other attack vectors such as email or instant messaging may require the victim user to manually open the malicious .AVI.

Solution: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15063/solution>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15063/references>

**27. *December 13, PhysOrg* — Researchers: Hacker attacks in U.S. linked to Chinese military.**

A systematic effort by hackers to penetrate U.S. government and industry computer networks stems most likely from the Chinese military, the head of a leading security institute said. The attacks have been traced to the Chinese province of Guangdong, and the techniques used make it appear unlikely to come from any other source than the military, said Alan Paller, the director of the SANS Institute, an education and research organization focusing on cybersecurity. In the attacks, Paller said, the perpetrators "were in and out with no keystroke errors and left no fingerprints, and created a backdoor in less than 30 minutes. How can this be done by anyone other than a military organization?" Paller said that despite what appears to be a systematic effort to target government agencies and defense contractors, defenses have remained weak in many areas. Security among private-sector Pentagon contractors may not be as robust, said Paller, because "they are less willing to make it hard for mobile people to get their work done." The U.S. military has code-named the recent hacker effort "Titan Rain" and has made some strides in counter-hacking to identify the attackers, Paller said.

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news8992.html>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity, which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT is aware of a cross-domain violation in Internet Explorer. This may allow a script in one domain to access web content in a different domain. Web browsers should adhere to the "Same Origin Policy", which prevents documents or scripts loaded from one origin from getting or setting properties of a document from a different origin. Internet Explorer does not follow this policy when importing CSS documents. For more information please see URL: <http://www.mozilla.org/projects/security/components/same-origin.html>

If the cross-domain violation in Internet Explorer occurs on a system that has Google Desktop Search (GDS) installed, then an attacker may be able to search for private data, execute programs, or execute arbitrary code on this vulnerable system. Google has modified its web pages to prevent exploitation of GDS through this particular vulnerability in Internet Explorer. The cross-domain violation vulnerability in Internet Explorer is still present, however. Although there is limited information concerning this vulnerability, US-CERT encourages users to disable Active scripting to prevent exploitation. For more information please review URL:

[http://www.cert.org/tech\\_tips/malicious\\_code\\_FAQ.html#ie566](http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/malicious_code_FAQ.html#ie566)

Users can also refer to the Microsoft Security Response Center Blog for some additional information on this vulnerability affecting Internet Explorer. For more information please see:

<http://blogs.technet.com/msrc/archive/2005/12/07/415740.aspx>

US-CERT has observed increased traffic affecting port 53 since the release of W32.Spybot.ABDO. Symantec's write up points out that Spybot.ABDO opens a back door by connecting to an IRC server through TCP port 53. Looking at the Port 53 Report using DShield data, shows that the number of targets has more than doubled in the past 48 hours. Other malware that has been discovered in recent months, using Port 53, include Backdoor.Civcat, Trojan.Esteems.C, Trojan.Esteems, and W32.Beagle.BH@mm. For more please see the following URL:

<http://isc.sans.org/diary.php?storyid=928>

#### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 25 (smtp), 80 (www), 135 (epmap), 50497 (---), 139 (netbios-ssn), 55556 (---), 42011 (---)
	Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

### **28. *December 14, Associated Press* — Homes, vehicles wash away after Missouri dam fails.**

Water poured through a breach at the Taum Sauk Lake Hydroelectric Plant's reservoir in rural southeast Missouri on Wednesday morning, December 14, washing away an unknown number of homes and vehicles, authorities said. The breach occurred in the upper of two reservoirs at the plant run by St. Louis-based utility AmerenUE. Three or four family members were hospitalized after water swamped their home at a state park. National Weather Service Meteorologist Joe Pedigo said rescue teams searched for people believed to be trapped in cars, especially along Highway N near the reservoir. Pedigo said a house, a mobile home, several cars and a tractor-trailer were reported washed away. AmerenUE officials said there was no sign of foul play. The reservoir sits near a fault line in the Ozark mountains, but there was no

seismic activity Wednesday morning. Conditions along the Black River, where the plant is situated, were considered dangerous, the weather service said. AmerenUE officials said the breach occurred at the northwest corner of the reservoir; about one billion gallons of water leaked from a v-shaped breach in the wall.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-12-14-damfailure\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-12-14-damfailure_x.htm)

29. *December 13, Honolulu Star Bulletin (HI)* — **Arson is suspected at Hawaii commercial buildings; one houses Internal Revenue Service.** A plate glass window was shattered, then a burning trash can was thrown into the building occupied by the nonprofit Hui Malama Learning Center in Central Maui, HI, early Sunday morning, December 11. Within an hour, blazes were burning at two other buildings: the nearby office of nonprofit Hospice Maui and the commercial building Main Street Promenade about a mile away. Damage was minimal to all three. Police and fire officials were continuing to investigate the cause of the "suspicious" blazes, with the first being noticed at about 12:30 a.m. GMT, Sunday, December 11, at Hui Malama. "They are believed to be intentionally set," Maui Police Lt. Glenn Cuomo said. An initial review indicates a link between the fires at Hui Malama and Hospice Maui. Damage was estimated conservatively at \$2,000 to \$5,000 at Hui Malama, and at \$5,000 at the Main Street Promenade. The estimated damage to Hospice Maui was \$10,000. The fires were started with trash at Hui Malama and the Main Street Promenade, and in a recycling bin at Hospice Maui. Main Street Promenade houses a variety of tenants, including the Maui office of the Internal Revenue Service.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2005/12/13/news/story11.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:

<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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